



Media access guidelines for Wild Horse & Burro Gatherings

The Bureau of Land Management welcomes the media to cover its WH&B roundups because it furthers our objectives to provide public access and transparency. However, the first and overriding objective is safety: for the public, our employees and our contractor.

There are basically three issues involved in setting media access for our roundups: who, when/how long, where

Who: Anyone identifying themselves as a journalist who can provide either an official press credential (such as the NY Times) **OR** a letter from a media outlet identifying them as a representative of that outlet **OR** if a freelancer, some clips of a body of your work (article, photo, etc)

When/How Long? All media meeting at least one of these criteria will be provided special access, if requested, depending on their specific needs (video vs stills vs reporter, etc,) if the BLM determines such access beyond that granted to the public can be provided safely. As such safe access takes extra staff and contractor time; each media outlet will be allocated up to three days of such access to complete their assignment per gather. After that, media will be provided the same access as public observers. There can be exceptions granted, but such requests must be in writing and based on demonstrated and generally accepted journalistic needs.

Where: Media access requests must be made to the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) in charge who will work with the Contracting Officer's Representative/WH&B Specialist (COR) who will then consult with the contractor to locate a safe access location as close to the media's needs as possible. For their own safety, media reps must follow instructions specified by the PAO who shall consider and pass on to COR special requests as warranted. Violations of the media safety instructions could result in a revocation of special access or other steps.

These guidelines are prepared to provide the media reasonable but safe access to our WH&B gatherings. We appreciate any ideas and feedback on how we can provide special access to media to further media goals and still meet our roundup objectives of safety, access, and transparency.